

REMARKS

Reconsideration and continued examination is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks.

Disposition of the Claims.

Claims 1-17 are pending in the instant application. Specifically, claims 1-17 are currently rejected as being anticipated in view of the prior art.

Telephonic Interview with Examiner

The Applicant notes the Examiner's discussion in his Second Office Action related to the priority date relied upon by the above-identified patent application in order to overcome the prior art rejections being applied by the Examiner and acknowledges that a certified copy of an English translation of the priority document (Korean patent application serial number 1999/39735) must be filed with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office to overcome this rejection. Accordingly, the Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a certified copy of the English translation of the priority document in order to establish foreign priority and overcome the prior art cited by the Examiner.

Summary of Prior Art Rejections.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,607,483 to Holland ("Holland"). Additionally, the Examiner has rejected claims 10-17 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,478,736 to Mault ("Mault").

Claims 1-9 Cannot be Properly Rejected Under 35 USC §102(e) In
View of the Holland Reference.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 as being anticipated by the Holland reference. As noted in the Applicant's earlier amendment and remarks, the Holland reference claims a priority filing date of April 5, 2000 based upon provisional patent application Serial No. 60/194,819.

The present application is a national stage filing of PCT Application No. PCT/KR00/01028 filed on September 14, 2000. This PCT Application claims priority to Korean Patent Application No. 1999-0039735 filed on September 16, 1999. Since the present application claims a priority date of September 16, 1999 in view of the certified copy of the priority document being filed concurrently herewith, the Holland reference cannot be used to reject claims 1-9 under 35 USC §102(e) and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of claims 1-9 and indicate the allowance thereof.

Claims 10-17 Cannot be Properly Rejected Under 35 USC §102(e) In
View of the Mault Reference.

The Examiner has rejected claims 10-17 as being anticipated by the Mault reference. As discussed in the telephonic interview, the Mault reference cannot be properly used to reject claims 10-17 under 35 USC §102(e). The Mault reference claims priority filing dates from a series of provisional applications, the earliest of which was filed on October 8, 1999 and assigned serial number 60/158,553. As noted above, the present invention claims a priority filing date of September 16, 1999 as evidenced by the filing of the priority document. Therefore, the Mault reference cannot be used to reject claims 10-17 under 35 USC §102(e) and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw

his rejection of claims 10-17 and indicate the allowance thereof.

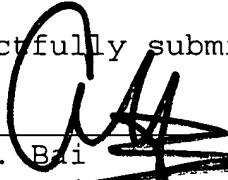
Conclusion

By the present response, the Applicant has provided remarks and formal documents to overcome the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-17 as being anticipated by the Holland and Mault references. In particular, the Applicant has provided a certified copy of the priority document to establish a priority date that is earlier than the priority filing dates of both the Holland and Mault references and therefore overcomes the rejection of claims 1-17. Based on the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 1-17 and indicate the allowance thereof.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would place the application in still better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney collect.

Respectfully submitted,

10/5/2004
Date


Ari M. Bai
Registration No. 38,726
Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, PC
10 S. Broadway, STE. 2000
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
314-241-9090 (Phone)
314-345-4704 (Fax)